

V. REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Ozaki et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0031658) in view of Jeong (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0016313). The claims are canceled and, as a result, the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Newly-added claims 6-11 include features not shown in the applied art.

Re: Features of the Present Invention

The present invention relates to a gaming machine characterized in that the periphery corner portion in the rear side of the opening of the rear holder is not viewed through the liquid crystal panel (that is, the periphery corner portion in the rear side of the opening is removed). {Emphasis added}.

Re: Detailed Explanation of the Present Invention

Referring to FIGS. 3(a) and 3(b), the rear holder 39h is provided with the openings 5c, 6c, 7c at a region in which the symbols drawn on the reels 2, 3, 4 are displayed through the liquid crystal panel 39d.

This rear holder 39h requires a predetermined thickness (t1) shown in FIG. 3(b) in order to ensure a strength to hold the liquid crystal panel 39d and the light guiding plate 39g.

However, owing to this thickness (t1) of the rear holder 39h for ensuring a strength, the peripheral corner portion (P) of the opening (5c) in the rear side of the rear holder 39h undesirably gets in the viewable range (v) of the player through the liquid crystal panel 39d (see FIGS. 3(a) and 3(b)).

In a case where the peripheral corner portion (P) of the opening (5c) in the rear side of the rear holder 39h is within the viewable range (v) of the player, the player can view this peripheral corner portion (P) when viewing the symbols variably displayed on the reel 2 through the liquid crystal panel 39d, thereby leading to a problem such that the player's attention to the symbols drawn on the reel may be distracted during the game.

To solve the above-mentioned problem, the gaming machine according to the present invention is characterized by removing the peripheral corner portion (P) of the opening in the rear side of the rear holder 39h for holding the liquid crystal panel 39d (as indicated by the dashed line in FIG. 3(b)).

Thus, the present invention can prevent the player from viewing the peripheral corner portion (P) in the rear side of the opening of the rear holder 39h through the liquid crystal panel 39d when viewing the symbols variably displayed on the reel 2 through the liquid crystal panel 39d because the peripheral corner portion (P) has been removed according to the present invention.

Therefore, there is attained advantageous effect that the player can pay his attention to the symbols drawn on the reel and thus concentrate on the game.

Removal of the peripheral corner portion (P) of the opening in the rear side of the rear holder is neither disclosed nor suggested in Cited References D1 and D2, mentioned below.

Re: Details of Cited References

Cited reference D1 (US200131658A) discloses an invention relating to slot machine having the intermediate panel 27 in front of the reel 30a. The intermediate panel 27 is integrally stacked on the back of the EL panel 28a, and is provided with the small opening 27a through which the reel 30a placed at the back can be seen (see FIG. 2).

Cited Reference D2 (US200316313A) discloses an invention relating to a general liquid crystal display device in which the catching jaw 224b1 formed by cutting a corner of the light guide plate 224 is engaged with the catching boss 404a formed within the opening of the mold frame 400 so as to prevent movement of the light guide plate 224 once accommodated in the mold frame 400 (see FIG. 7).

As shown in FIG. 2, although D1 discloses the opening 27a provided to the intermediate panel 27, a peripheral corner portion in the rear side of the opening 27a is not removed, unlike the present invention.

As shown in FIG. 7, although D2 discloses an invention relating to the device for preventing the light guide plate 224 accommodated in the mold frame 400 from moving from an accommodating position. Even where a comparison is made between the mold frame 400 according to D2 and the rear holder 39h according to the present invention, the frame 400 is different from the rear holder 39h in which the peripheral corner portion of the opening in the rear side is removed.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of the claims as discussed above. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not combine the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are allowable over the applied art.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

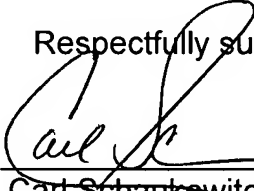
It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Amendment is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to set forth further arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims, including

the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

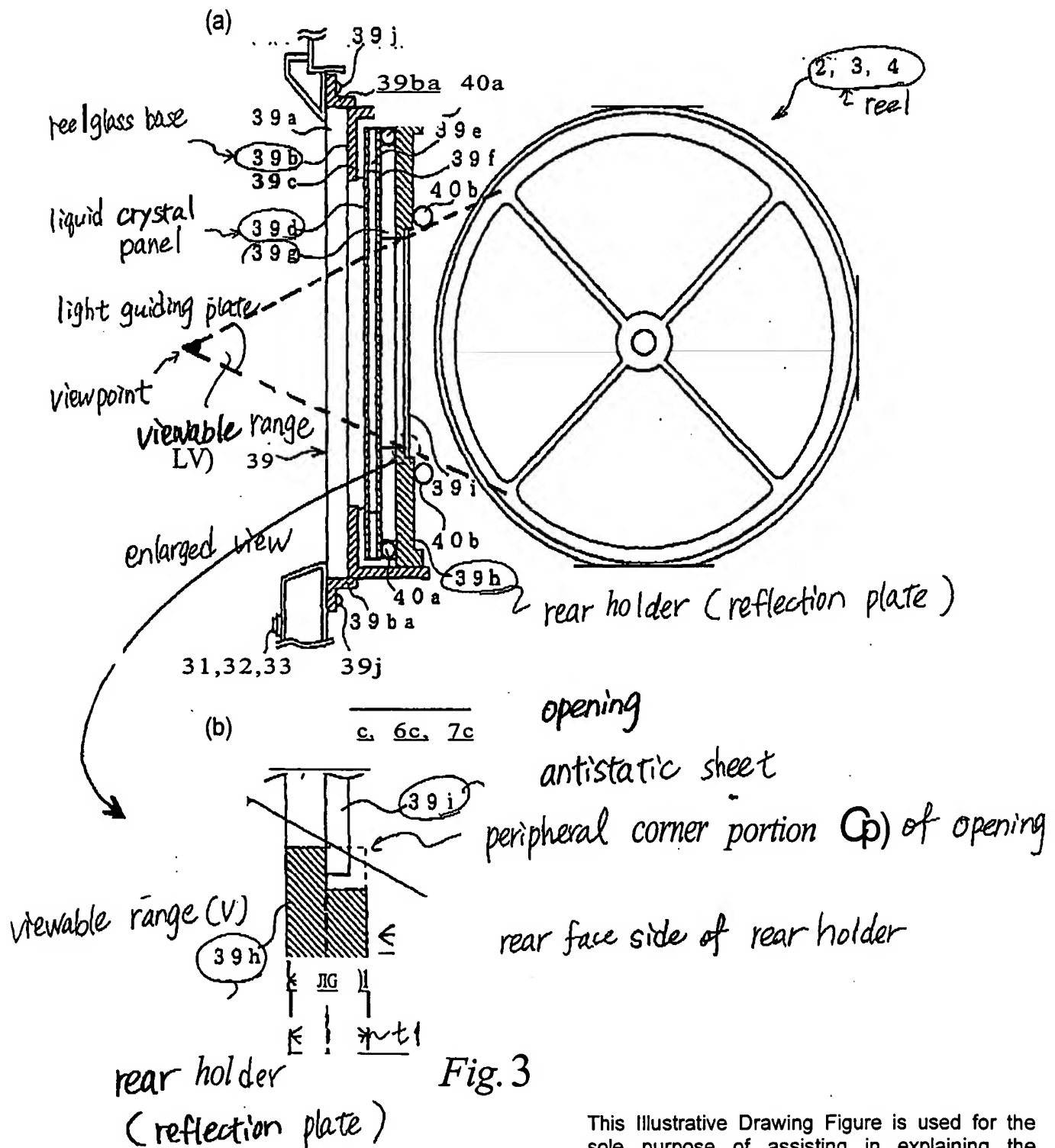
Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Date: July 21, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal
 Illustrative Drawing Figure 3 entitled "Present Invention"
 Illustrative Drawing Figure 2 entitled "Cited Reference D1"
 Illustrative Drawing Figure 7 entitled "Cited Reference D2"



This Illustrative Drawing Figure is used for the sole purpose of assisting in explaining the invention to the Examiner as set forth in this Amendment; this Illustrative Drawing Figure is NOT a Replacement Sheet of drawing nor a New Drawing.

FIG. 2

This Illustrative Drawing Figure is used for the sole purpose of assisting in explaining the invention to the Examiner as set forth in this Amendment; this Illustrative Drawing Figure is NOT a Replacement Sheet of drawing nor a New Drawing.

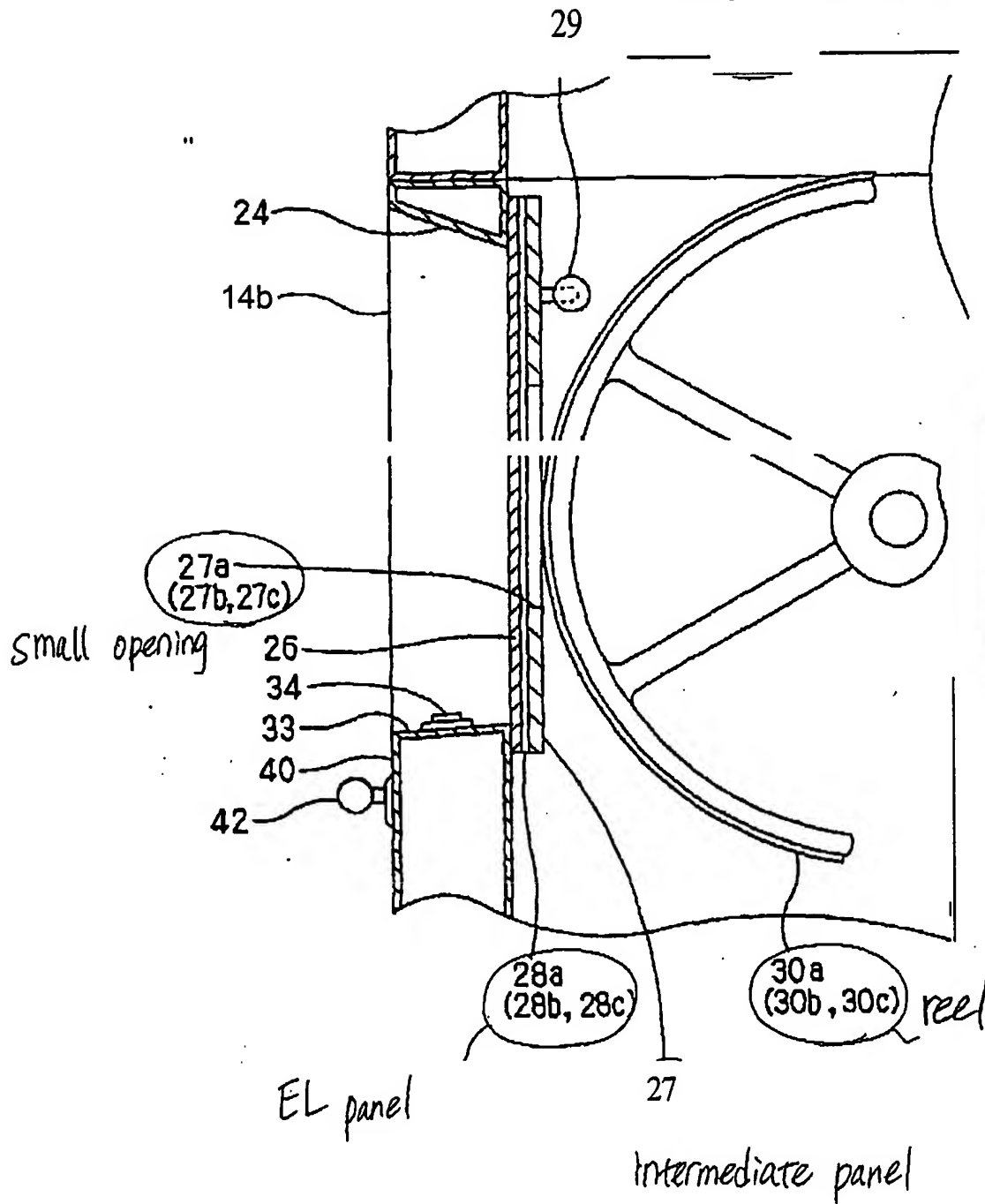


FIG. 7

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